November, 1997 envisages full deregulation of the prices of the indigenous crude oil effective 1.4.2002. The ONGC has requested for the implementation of this decision. The ONGC is currently being paid Rs. 5,57ftMT for its crude oil. The weighted averge price for import of crude oil for the period April-October 2001 was about Rs. 8,50OMT.

Decline in production capacity of Mumbai High

3005. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mumbai High which commenced production of oil in 1976 did produce 4 lakh barrels of oil per day between 1985 and 1989;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the production has declined to 2.2 lakh barrels and the production of gas has also come down;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps are being taken to boost the production of both these items again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Mumbai High field of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) started production in 1976 and entered in the declining phase of production from 1990-91, which is a natural phenomenon for any aging field, thus, while the Mumbai High field reached its peak production of 4 lakh barrels of oil per day during the period 1985-89, the average production has declined gradually to about 2.20 lakh barrels per day of oil in November 2001. The gas production has also come down to 14.17 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) in November 2001 from the peak level of 26.83 MMSCMD.

(d) In order to improve the recovery of oil and gas from the Mumbai High (M.H.) field, ONGC has taken up the redevelopment of M.H. North and M.H. South Fields, which envisages an incremental production of about 75 million metric tonnes of oil and oil equivalent of gas over a 30 years time-frame.